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Environmental Justice Achievement Awards



*Recognizing Successful Partnerships
Achieving Public Health and Environmental Justice Goals*

Fish Contamination Education Collaborative



Nam Do (right) of Boat People SOS conducts outreach to a community member at the Magnolia Center Health Clinic in Westminster on February 19, 2008.



The Angler Outreach team instructs pier and shore-line anglers to catch and release white croaker, the most highly contaminated local fish species.



A California Department of Fish and Game warden and a Los Angeles County Environmental Health inspector conduct joint market inspection in local ethnic market in September 2009.

EPA is pleased to present a 2009 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the **Fish Contamination Education Collaborative (FCEC) for its work to reduce the consumption of contaminated fish by the local Vietnamese and Chinese communities, and angler populations near the Palos Verdes Shelf Superfund site.**

The FCEC worked extensively to encourage communities to adopt safe fish-eating habits, remove contaminated fish from local stores, and implement catch-and-release programs for local anglers. By integrating the efforts of local nonprofit, community-based organizations and local, state, and federal governmental agencies, FCEC's angler and community outreach programs have brought about a range of behavior change efforts to protect the most vulnerable populations from local fish contamination.

Using community-based social marketing, web technologies, a consumption advisory, and fishing restrictions, the program has reached over 8,000 anglers in the past 5 years. Follow-up surveys on consumption habits in 2007-2008 showed the proportion of Vietnamese community members adopting safer cooking habits increased by 40 percent, and the number of anglers aware that the white croaker fish population was contaminated increased by 50 percent.

The FCEC continues to utilize strategic planning tools that bring the stakeholders together to jointly set goals and numeric objectives for the project. The program has demonstrated that community outreach and education can achieve risk reduction goals.

Partners

Boat People SOS Orange County
Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
California Department of Fish and Game
City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Environmental Health
Heal the Bay
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Orange County Health Care Agency – Environmental Health
St. Anselm's Cross-Cultural Community Center
Asian Youth Center
California Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
Herald Community Center
S. Groner Associates